

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 00471 200322Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0471

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINR SHUM HA

SUBJ: POLITICAL PRISONER: SEBASTIANI ALLEN

REF: A. 75 PORT AU PRINCE 3222 (PARA 9, B. PORT AU PRINCE A-10

1. AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, SEBASTIANI ALLEN VISITED EMBOFF'S HOME UNANNOUNCED TO DISCUSS HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON LAST DEC. (REFTEL). HE ADVISED THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON FRIDAY EVENING APRIL 9, 1971, IN HOME OF FULBERT CHARLES, WHO WORKED AT HAITIAN-AMERICAN MEAT CO. ALLEN HAD GONE THERE TO ARRANGE FOR PURCHASE OF SPECIAL MEAT ORDER NEXT DAY. HE THEN LEARNED THAT CHARLES HAD BEEN ARRESTED DAY BEFORE, AND SECURITY AGENTS HIDING NEARBY ARRESTED HIM. THE TOOK HIM TO THE CASERNE DESSALINES. ON APR. 21, 1971 HE WAS TAKEN TO NATIONAL PENITENTIARY, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL RELEASED IN DEC. 1975. ALLEN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED ONLY OF FORMING A POLITICAL PARTY AND OF BEING TOO CLOSE TO "THE AMERICANS". HE WAS INTERROGATED MAINLY BY THE THEN DESSALINES BATALLION COMMANDER, COL. (LATER BG) BRETON CLAUDE. ALLEN FELT HE MANAGED TO CONVINCE CLAUDE THAT HE WAS HARMLESS AND AN INVALID (HE SHOWED CLAUDE SCARS FROM A RECENT OPERATION). ALLEN WAS NEVER TRIED.

2. PRISON CONDITIONS - ALLEN SAID HE AND MOST OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS HE MET WERE ALWAYS WELL TREATED,
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PAGE 02 PORT A 00471 200322Z

ALBEIT SOME PEASANTS ALSO HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS

HAD BEEN BEATEN BEFORE ARRIVING AT PRISON. ONE SUCH BATTERED PEASANT, DIEUDONNE AUGUSTIN, EXPLAINED WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED FOR BEING A "POLINIST". EVENTUALLY ALLEN REALIZED THAT AUGUSTIN SHOULD HAVE SAID "COMMUNIST" EXCEPT HE HAD NEVER HEARD THE WORD BEFORE AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANT.

3. REMAINING PRISONERS - ALLEN ADVISED THAT TWO OF EX-DEPUTY LEON JEAN'S HENCHMEN, EMMANUEL STEPHEN AND CAILLE MONESTIME, REMAIN IN THE PENITENTIARY, WHILE A THIRD, KERNISAN DUPONT, DIED THERE FROM NATURAL CAUSES (PAUP A-109 OF 7/11/75). OTHER STILL BEING HELD IN THE PENITENTIARY FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEON JEAN/EX-COLONELS PLOT ARE MENDES ST.-LOUIS, PIERRE JEAN-BAPTISTE AND MARCEL JEAN-BAPTISTE. AS FAR AS HE COULD TELL COMMUNIST PRISONERS ARE BEING HELD AT FORT DIMANCHE PRISON. ALLEN SAID THAT AMONG THEM ARE GERARD TOUSSAINT, ARRESTED IN 1968 FOR LEADING DISTURBANCES IN THE ARTIBONITE VALLEY (TOUSSAINT'S COMPANION, JOSEPH ST.-CHARLES, WAS KILLED DURING TOUSSAINT'S CAPTURE), AND CLAUDE ROSSIER (OR ROZIER), SUPPOSEDLY ARRESTED IN 1966.

4. ALLEN SAID HE WOULD APPLY ON FEB 23 AT EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION TO OBTAIN NEW INS ALIEN REGISTRATION CARD, SINCE HIS CARD WAS NOT RETURNED TO HIM BY PRISON AUTHORITIES.
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